

REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1 to 32 are pending.

B. Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 and 372

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following groups of claims under 35 U.S.C. §121 and 372:

Invention	Claims
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Group I	claims 1-7, drawn to a method for mapping a site of post-translational modification on a post-translationally modified polypeptide.
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Group II	claims 8-16 and 18-26, drawn to a serine protease or an endopeptidase that site specifically cleaves a peptide bond of post-translationally modified polypeptide at a site of post-translational modification.
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Group III	claims 17, 27-32, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid encoding endopeptidase, an expression vector and a host cell.
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In response to the present Restriction Requirement and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the invention of group I, drawn to a method for mapping a site of post-translational modification on a post-translationally modified polypeptide.

C. Species Election Requirement under PCT Rule 13.1

The outstanding Office Action requires that under PCT Rule 13.1 Applicants elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. According to the Examiner, the species are expressed in the following terms:

Group I, each post-translational modification is a single species in claim 2.

Group I, each amino acid is a single species in claim 3.

Group II, each post-translational modification is a single species in claim 9.

Group II, each amino acid substitution is a single species in claims 15, 21 and 25.

In order to comply with PCT Rule 13.1, Applicants elect the following species:
For the post-translational modification (group I), Applicants elect the species of phosphorylation, to which claim 2 is directed. For the amino acid (group I), Applicants elect the species of tyrosine, to which claim 3 is directed. As aforementioned, Applicants have elected group I, drawn to a method for mapping a site of post-translational modification on a post-translationally modified polypeptide. Thus, the species election for group II becomes moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

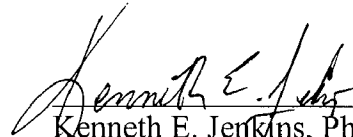
Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any fee due herein and any other fees that may become due or credit become payable to Deposit Account No. 50-2613 during the pendency of this application.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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